

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has restricted the pending claims into the following groups:

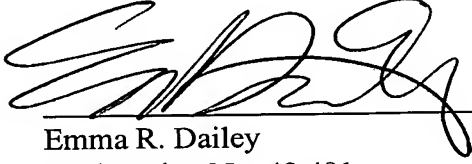
Group I: Claims 128, 131-134, drawn to an oligomer classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group II: Claims 129, 130, 135-137, drawn to methods of nucleic acid detection, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Applicants note that claim 138 (filed in the Preliminary Amendment dated March 18, 2002 and presented again in the listing of the claims above) was not indicated as pending in the Office Action and, therefore, not included in the restriction. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview during which it was clarified that claim 138 belongs in Group II. Therefore, Applicants elect Group II (Claims 129, 130, 135-138).

Applicants note that the species election recited in the Office Action pertains to structures in claim 128. Applicants have not made a species election because claim 128 is in the non-elected group (*i.e.*, Group I). Applicants solicit an early Office Action on the merits.

Date: October 7, 2003


Emma R. Dailey
Registration No. 48,491

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439